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1962/10/16

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Rec'd: OCTOBER 16, 1962
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BRITISH AMB ROBERTS HAS INFORMED ME IN CONFIDENCE RE HIS EXCHANGES WITH LONDON ON QUESTION STOPPING SOVIET FLIGHTS TO CUBA VIA PRESTWICK, NUMBER OF WHICH (13) CAME AS SURPRISE TO HIM. FONOFF PROPOSED ROBERTS BRING TO SOVIET ATTENTION LACK RECIPROCITY INVOLVED (AND APPARENTLY NOT REQUESTED) AND ASK SOVIET INTENTIONS TOWARD GRANTING THRU-FLIGHTS TO BEA. ROBERTS HAS REPLIED SOVIETS WILL RECOGNIZE NO OBLIGATION FOR PIST AND SUCH GENERALIZED APPROACH LIKELY MEET SIMPLY WITH STALLING TACTICS OR OPEN UP WHOLE QUESTION FOR ENDLESS DISCUSSION AVIATION RELATIONS, INCLUDING OCCASIONAL ADMISSION AIRCRAFT FOR EMBASSY. HE HAS SUGGESTED INSTEAD BRITISH APPLY FOR SPECIFIC THRU-FLIGHT FOR BEA TO IRAN OR INDIA. THEN IF SOVIETS STALL OR REFUSE, AS IS ALMOST CERTAIN, BRITISH CAN SIMPLY RESPOND IN KIND ON SPECIFIC FUTURE SOVIET REQUESTS TO TRANSIT PRESTWICK.

I AGREED HIS PROPOSED TACTICS MUCH SOUNDER, ASSUMING FONOFF CONSIDERED NECESSARY PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT CASE FOR STOPPAGE.

SINCE HE DOES NOT YET KNOW LONDON REACTION, ROBERTS REQUESTED NO DISCLOSURE.

KOHLER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

REVIEWED by

10/27/68

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